

P 051455Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0802
INFO HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC
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OSAF WASHINGTON DC
HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC
HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC
FAA WASHDC
FAA AERONAUTICAL CEN OKLAHOMA CITY OK

UNCLAS COTONOU 000081

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAIR](#) [KREC](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [BN](#)

SUBJECT: BENIN - INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP DECISION ON THE STATUS OF
COTONOU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REFS: A. STATE 16579, B. 07 COTONOU 000328,
[1](#)C. 07 STATE 043720

[1](#)1. In response to REF A post has sent Diplomatic Note No. 049 to
the Government of Benin's (GOB) Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March
5, 2009.

[1](#)2. Begin text:

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its
compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration,
Francophonie and the Beninese Diaspora of the Republic of Benin and
has the honor to inform the Ministry of the following.

The policy of the Government of the United States of America is
that government aircraft operated in or through the airspace of
another state will not be required to pay navigation, over flight or
terminal fees; will not be required to pay landing, parking, or
other use fees at government airports. However, it will pay
reasonable charges for goods or services requested and received at
both government and non-government airports. This policy, which is
based upon the unique status of state aircraft in international law
as instruments of sovereignty, is consistent with international
custom and practice.

The United States applies this policy to all military and other
U.S. state aircraft. The United States Government does not impose
such fees on foreign State aircraft visiting or transiting the
United States.

Pursuant to this policy the United States Government should not
be charged landing and parking fees at Cotonou International Airport
for government (including military) aircraft.

The Embassy of the United States of America thanks the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese
Diaspora for its cooperation and avails itself of this opportunity
to renew to the Ministry, the assurance of its highest
consideration.

END TEXT

BROWN